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REMARKS

In accordance with the present amendment, the specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to applicants' international patent application (PCT/US98/12138), on which the present application is based, as well as a claim, under 35 USC 119(e), to the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/048,552.

No new matter has been introduced into this application by reason of the present amendment.

This application is not subject to the provisions of 37 CFR §1.78(a)(5), as it is a non-provisional application which entered the national stage after compliance with 35 USC §371 from an international application filed under 35 USC §363 before November 29, 2000.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the present amendment, in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.312, as the issue fee for this application has not yet been paid and there is no need to withdraw the application from issue.

Should there be a fee associated with this amendment, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1406 of the undersigned attorneys.

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